

March 26, 1975

raising this bill. We have had this situation one year which I don't think is adequate to judge one way or the other. Quite naturally, I am not going to stand here and say that any fatality is to be dismissed but we had fatalities whether on roads or on hunting or you hunted on the road or not. Now, also the Committee report and I hope you do read it, I think it was very fair on taking in both sides of the report. The bill was killed 4 to 3 and, of course, that is just by a mere majority not a landslide. There was differences of opinion, quite obviously, on the Committee on this matter but let's get down to some facts. If you will notice on the Committee report, most all of your opposition to roadside hunting came from people within the confines of the close area of Lincoln. Very little testimony came from when you got away from Lincoln. Now Lincoln may have a particular problem, I don't know but that is where most of it come from. So one county close into Lincoln is going to determine what happens for the whole state. Now when we come to accidents, let me tell you a personal experience I had. This thing can happen...accidents can happen anytime. I was coming out hunting a couple of years ago over the brow of a hill and there was two farmers talking, each with a load of corn and they had the road blocked over the brow of the hill. I could have got killed if I was going fast and that was when you didn't allow any hunting from the road. Incidentally, I don't hunt from the road even though it is legal. I have other places to hunt but there is a lot of people that don't. I have never hunted from the road, as I can recall, in my life because I am one of those fortunate people that don't need it because I happen to have some friends. Senator Duis said I did too have an accident hunting. I will go along with that one but that is a different story and that was not on the road and I had permission to hunt. But anyhow, these accidents can happen whether you have roadside hunting or not and farm vehicles sometimes can cause it as well as cars. I was going to fishing one time to Rat Lake, up in the Sandhills. I whirled around on a gravel road and there...

PRESIDENT: Can we stay with the bill rather than fishing.

SENATOR SYAS: But he was the one, sir, that got into the accident part. He made that part of...

PRESIDENT: (Inaudible) him from the side of the road.

SENATOR SYAS: This was by the side of the road. Well, anyhow, I almost hit a mule.

PRESIDENT: No elephants.

SENATOR SYAS: No elephants. Anyhow, I had some letters on this matter this session. I had some letters from close to the confines of Lincoln and I had a couple of letters about the rifle and one of them went through a woman's house because they were hunting coyotes and as much as Senator Warner is trying to be tricky on this and say hunting from the roads don't get the coyote involved, the coyote and the non-game animal is involved and don't dismiss it because his own people, and I think even the persons who voted to bring the bill out on the floor on